

**Amendments to Specification:**

Please amend the Specification as follows:

Please replace paragraph [33] with the following:

The skirt 30 of the inner section 18 is preferably steel, such as a 3/16 inch steel plate. In one embodiment, the skirt is attached to the vertical surface 16 of the outer section 12 and the vertical end 32 of the member [[26]] 24, as shown in Figure 1. In this embodiment, it is preferred that the skirt 30 is attached by a seal welding at attachment point 36; however, equivalent attachment means are also contemplated. As shown, in this embodiment the skirt 30 overlaps the vertical end 32 of the member [[26]] 24. The skirt 30 is preferably welded to the vertical section 16 above a predetermined critical height. The preferred height is approximately 6 inches high for a tank of approximately 44 feet in diameter, and the overlap with the member [[26]] 24 is preferred to be approximately 1.5 inches. The skirt 30 runs up the side of the vertical surface 16. Also, in this embodiment and the other embodiments of this invention, there are hoop stresses which occur for any vessel. It would be preferred that the attachment points of the skirt to the vertical surface 16, as well as those of the member 24, are placed to avoid these stresses, such as above or below the maximum stress points for a particular geometry.

Please replace paragraph [34] with the following:

In addition, the inner section 18 further comprises at least one bottom plate 40. In the embodiment in Figure 1, the bottom plate overlaps the horizontal end 34 of the member [[26]] 24. However, in the preferred embodiment shown in Figure 6, the bottom plate or plates 40 lie beneath the member 26. As shown in Figures 1, 6 and 7, the skirt 30 and the

bottom plate 40 are attached to the L-shaped member [[26]] by a means such as a seal weld at 38. Although a single weld is shown, other attachment means are also contemplated. A plurality of L-shaped members 26 and skirts 30 preferably generally travel around the inside perimeter of the outer section 12.

Please replace paragraph [35] with the following:

In the preferred embodiment, the perimeter is preferably bisected by a divider plate 42, illustrated in Figures 2, 3 and 5, although more or less than two divided zones may be used. The divider plate 42 is gas permeably attached on one side of the floor surface 14 and impermeably attached on the other side. A stitch weld is preferred for permeable attachment at 44 and a seal weld is preferred for impermeable attachment at 46. New floor plates 48, which are comprised of bottom plates 40, are overlaid an original flooring to the tank preferably and sealingly attached, so that the system 10 comprises two independently sealed interstitial space sections divided by the divider plate 42. The divider plate 42 is preferably 1/4 inch by 4 inches by 44 feet for a vessel of approximately 44 feet in diameter. However, varying widths may be used depending upon the diameter of the tank.

Please replace paragraph [39] with the following:

In the embodiment in Figure 7, a flooring layer is overlaid the bottom surface 16, and bottom plates are attached to the top surface 34 of the member [[24]] 26.

Please replace paragraph [40] with the following:

In the preferred embodiment, shown in Figure 6, the system is deployed as follows. The divider plate, or plates are laid, with the rolled up ends attached to the vertical surface 16, L-shaped members [[24]] 26 are overlaid the divider plate and placed around the inner

circumference of the outer portion 12. Bottom plates 40 are overlaid the divider plate 42 and the horizontal sections 34 of the L-shaped members ~~[[24]]~~ 26. As shown in Figure 2, bottom plates over the divider plate ~~[[48]]~~ 42 preferably do not overlap. The skirt 30 is then attached to the vertical section 12 and the vertical portions of the L-shaped members ~~[[24]]~~ 26. It is to be understood that the order of placement of the elements can be altered without changing the final configuration.

Please replace paragraph [42] with the following:

It is preferred that the bottom plates comprise approximately 3/16 inch thick steel plates. The vertical end 32 of the member 26 is seal welded to the skirt 30 and the horizontal end 34 is seal welded to the new flooring 68 at points 70 and 72. Several divider plates 42 may be used in the system, so long as one side is permeably attached to the bottom surfaces, and the other side is impermeably attached. The ~~[[diver]]~~ divider plates 42 can be in parallel orientation, perpendicular orientation or other shapes, thereby providing several zones where interstitial space has a negative pressure. When used in this manner, the system allows for the narrowing down of the location of a leak so that repair can be made quickly and with a reduced amount of materials and labor. Also a buffer lining for preventing corrosion of material known in the art may be placed over the bottom plates. The vertical surface 16 is welded to the rolled up portion of the divider plate. The divider plate is then welded to the L-shaped member. The L-shaped member is then welded to the skirt.